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### Letter, 1974 November 7, from Celia Cox to Eva Jessye

Celia Cox

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LOS ANGELES, CAL.

HI, SWEETIE, BLESS YOU,

NOV, 7, 1974,

ABOUT 5 AM and I'ME thinking about you while you are haveing pleasant dream I hope, AND to my surprise I Slept until a few minuts ago, thats unusual, I knW I was verry tired and didnt go to church but went to bed early read about 3 minuts and went to sleep, I dont think I turned over all night I'ME takeing 7 pills a day iron Plus 3 times a Day and I beganing to feel in my oats, and got to do somthing with this energy, got my friends ashame of me, I was worned out makeing quilts and geting corns on my fingers and they bled somtimes, and I would get t stiff and have to do the hoochey coochey and every thing that goes with it to keep steping spry, I didnt waht to have a wrestling match with these other people younger than me, geting aff my knees, so I stoped quilting for awhile, then here I sat, BORED, holdi my hands, BORED to tears and geting crasier ever day, tell you just one thing I did one AM, ( I dressed and started to begav my day ,and found I had onley put 1 shoe on, next AM i was all dressed for S School got my ap apron to put on , sat down to eat looked down , ( NO apron, ) it was over my sholder, the LORD spoke to ME said( CELIA,,WATCH IT, you are slipping)( Smile) as thee I didnt alredy know it, son knowing I had to do so mthing I must get bussy , "uess what)I took my cart and began picking up bottles and aluminun cans, FRIends ashamed of me began hollering some one notified the girls C called and gave orreds, (ITS done no good, One of my friends who gave me a hard time came in one day with 4 bottles grining and said( now you got me doing IT, HA HA I'ME haveing fun, loo looking like a tramp up and down the streets in vacant lots, sometimes when I dont have room for all I find I put them in my bosum and pockets, at times I hide them in weeds AND make several trips people and drunkardes save them for me, at last my next door neighbor loaned me his rusty wagon and I look like anybodys trampl Bless my heart, BUT I'ME happy I call this the abundant life, fJust to injoy this freedom GOD has given me , thats ( luctury as still as ITSkept,



I picked them up a long time for a widdow woman I found she was not need  
 so I stoped , now I'NME breaking them up myself TO sell and give the  
 money to a woman in our church who sends sick cards to sick people, and  
 when she can she puts a dollar in she has sent me several times, and I'VE  
 wanted so long to help her, but didnt see it wise to strane my  
 busich to far, , and LORD I have so many boxes of broken glass in my  
 garage its offul, Norman said he went hawl them for me, so one of my  
 drunkards said he will and went charge me, SO ads Mama use to say  
 I'VE as independent as a hog on ice, IF i cant stand up I can lay down, smil

I unloded coal for the SS rail road pitching coal from box car to a  
 coal ---- to the pit , 50 tons fir \$3.00) \$ 4.00

\$ 3,00, IN 197, year of panic I had a verry sick husband and 2 children

I looked like anyother miner when I came home M<sup>rs</sup> Thurman cared for my k  
 kidds and JAMES for we had moved with them for convienice, now just  
 why should I be so proud? pride is the downfall of the nations, People

sometimes speak to me about a runner in my stocking,( I say just  
 ,ent have a runner in your charifater is all that matters, Girl I'VE messing  
 on griting all this to you , And how did I get off with it ? I wounder? didnt

plan it so, I went for this to be short and sweet, I started off by turning  
 on my charms , and like a cow puting her foot in a good bucket of milk, I  
 speilder a lovely begining, AND not ashamed of it, ( HA HA now you have no

doubt about me loosing my marbles, I'TS lots Of fun ( GOING crasy)well now  
 I got to write my letter and JAR the lloor , got places in my mind to go for  
 bottles this AM,Norman trimmed my Palm tree a week ago left these offul

branches stacked in my driveyay add Baby Bill staved his leg on one,  
 he is always afraid of rBeing taken to hospitles are doctores, so he went tell  
 we didnt know until he began lompig, now we got trouble leg all seolen an  
 he runing a timpitugr, sent him to emergency last night they found a thorn  
 about a inch long near the bone infected and smelling offul, they gave him  
 3 shois and medicine we are to take him back in 2 days, the boys are working